58th Operations Group detachment inactivated

BY STAFF SGT. LAURA HOLZER

58th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs

58th Operations Group Detachment 1 closed its doors in an inactivation ceremony Jan. 24 at New River Marine Corps Station, N.C.

Its mission was conducting V-22 and flight training with the Marines Corps and served as the Air Force and Air Education and Training Command operational-level execution agent for V-22 issues. Twelve people were assigned to the detachment since it opened in June 1999

"Currently, all Det. 1 personnel are being reassigned," said Col. Michael Callan, 58th Operations Group commander. "Since Detachment 1 was inactivated, not deactivated, we in the 58th Special Operations Wing anxiously anticipate the direction the CV-22 program will take."

Even though the detachment closed, this doesn't mean the Air Force will not continue training with the Marines. V-22 pilot training could return and maintenance training will remain at New River with Air Force instructors teaching Airmen.

"In order for our people to receive college credit for their training, they must be taught by someone who holds a degree," said Master Sgt. Ronald Williams, CV-22 program manager.

In the meantime, the 58th Training Squadron is preparing to conduct the CV-22 flight training here, including flight engineer training. The first of four CV-22 simulators completed final testing and is operational. The second one arrived in crates today.

"A great deal of CV-22 flight training will be accomplished on the simulator. So it's very important the CV-22 simulator performs as realistically as possible," said Lt. Col. Joseph Maguire, 58th Training Squadron operation officer.

The \$26 million trainer is very cost effective. It initially costs one-fourth that of an actual CV-22 air-



Col. Michael Callan, 58th Operations Group commander, and Lt. Col. Preston M. Plous, Detachment 1 commander, fold the Detachment 1 flag in an inactivation ceremony Jan. 24.



Photo by Phil Kocurek

craft and is cheaper to operate per hour–only 10 percent of the aircraft flying hour costs.

The program has been in the works for more than 10 years. It's capable of obtaining vertical lift like that of a helicopter, but transitions into a fixed wing aircraft so it flies twice as fast, travels farther and carries more payload than that of the CH-46E helicopter it's replacing. It is also a multi-service special operations aircraft. The Marines will

have the MV-22 model and the Air Force will have the CV-22.

"It will enhance the way special operation missions are conducted in tomorrow's high technology battefield," said Lt. Col. Joe Falzone, simulator CV-22 program manager.

The 58th Special Operations Wing will receive six CV-22s starting 2006. Air Force Special operations units at Hurlburt Field, Fla., Kadena Air Base, Japan and Royal Air Force Mildenhall, United King-

The Air Force's first CV-22 lands at Edwards AFB, Calif., Sept. 18 after a nearly six-hour flight from Texas. The CV-22, which will be used by the Air Force Special Operations Command, includes a multi-mode radar used for terrain following and terrain avoidance; radar jamming and integrated radio frequency capabilities and special auxiliary fuel tanks.

dom, will also be fielded in the future.

"If the MV and CV-22 test program is successful, and our leaders decide to formally acquire the aircraft, we would serve as a formal schoolhouse to qualify mission crewmembers for the Air Force Special Operations Command," said Callan. "Currently, we are actively working all training issues surrounding the program and await a decision to be made."

Directed Energy employees receive recognition

Six medals, 22 certificates for outstanding achievement, and six civilian certificates of service were awarded recently to workers at the Air Force Research Laboratory's Directed Energy Directorate.

Meritorious Service Medals were awarded to Lt. Col. Walter E. Fink, Lt. Col. Mark S. Kilijanski and Master Sgt. Roberta K. Wagner

An Air Force Commendation Medal was presented to 1st Lt. Steven T. Westbrook.

Air Force Achievement Medals were presented to 1st Lt. Samuel V. Mantravadi and Senior Amn. Michael L. Bailey.

2nd Lt. Jeffry Heggemeier, Ahmed Lobad, Adrian Lucero, Robert Rathge, Gary Rex, Dr. Vern Schlie and Donald Stalnaker were each presented with an Inspector General Most Valuable Player Award for contributions to the Air Force Materiel Command's Inspector General office.

Fifteen employees were recognized with certificates of exemplary dedication and achievement for their support of an Air Force Materiel Command Unit Compliance Inspection

They included Lance Boucher, David Disanti, Bruce Grunsten, Pat Pfiefer, Stephen Sandager and David Tuttle of the Acquisition Strategy Integrated Product Team.

Also included were Fred Ader, Karen

George, Michelle Hedrick, Michael Martin, and Janet Roshau of the directorate's Safety Team.

Capt. Eric Furman and David Wilkes as part of the Airborne Laser Technologies Branch Tool Control Team; Tech. Sgt. Joseph Makatura from the Optics and Imaging Control Team; and Tech. Sgt. James Cabezas all received certificates for their contributions.

Six employees were presented certificates for years of federal service: Dr. Carl E. Baum for 40 years, Loretta A. Chavez and Butch Deuto for 30 years each, Virginia R. Velasquez for 20 years, and Edward Duff and Thomas Spencer 10 years each.



Photo by Dennis Carlson

Community Outreach agreement signed

Members from minority and community organizations were asked to sign a Memorandum of Agreement to formalize the partnership between them and Kirtland AFB at the Community Outreach meeting held Jan. 29. With this agreement, TEAM KIRTLAND is reaching out to further enhance the relationship between the community and Kirtland AFB. Those in attendance (from the left): Col. Kathy Jones, special assistant, Affirmative Employment Programs; Teresita Sanchez, Hispanic Employment Program manager; Nancy Bryant, Girl Scouts Chaparral Council; Joycelin Jackson, NAACP educational chair; Mae Harris, Blacks in Government, New Mexico Chapter president; Harold Bailey, president Albuquerque Branch NAACP and chairman, Council of Minorities and Women; Sharon Eskridge, Office of African American Affairs for the State of New Mexico; Connie Martinez, League of United Latin American Citizens; Dana Kouri, Police Athletic League executive director; Ken Carson, Wise Men Wise Women; Col. Kathleen Close, 377th Air Base Wing commander.

2 financial managers named best in command



377th Comptroller Squadron
Air Force Materiel Command
Financial Services Officer of the Year



377th Comptroller Squadron
Air Force Materiel Command
Financial Services Civilian of the Year
(GS-10 and below)

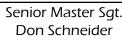
Space and Missile Systems Center Detachment 12 honors quarters best



AIRMANSenior Airman Jeff Largent



SENIOR NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER





COMPANY GRADE
OFFICER

2nd Lt. Ben Koch

no photo available

NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER

Staff Sgt. Travis Chenard



CIVILIAN CATEGORY II
Diana Greene

CIVILIAN CATEGORY

CIVILIAN CATEGORY IV

Jim Vaught

CIVILIAN CATEGORY III
Tracy Parks